(b) if so, whether the reasons of the accident have been ascertained; and

(c) the measures being taken by Government to prevent recurrence of such accidents?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) A 'Dhruv' helicopter of Indian Air Force met with an accident on 2nd February 2007 in Bangalore while practising for the Aero India 2007.

(b) All such accidents are investigated through a Court of Inquiry and remedial measures are undertaken accordingly.

(c) A continuous and multi-faceted effort is always underway in the Indian Air Force to enhance and upgrade flight safety. Measures to enhance the quality of training to improve the skill levels, ability to exercise sound judgment and situational awareness of pilots are being pursued. Constant interaction with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Original Equipment Manufactures (OEMs) of concerned countries are also maintained to overcome the technical defects of aircraft. Besides, anti-bird measures are also undertaken.

Technologies developed by DRDO

907. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of technologies that have been developed by DRDO so far;

(b) what is the number of technologies that have either been commercialized or been put to use for Defence purposes; and

(c) whether it is a fact that 30 per cent of Defence Budget allocated to DRDO goes down the drain because of non-utilisation of technologies developed by it; if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has develped numerous technologies related to various systems realized for Users. These include missiles; composite materials; electronic warfare systems; avionics, radars and sonars, communication systems; signal processing; armament and explosives; combat vehicles; nuclear, biological and chemical decontamination suites; parachutes, etc.

(b) There have been more than hundred number of technologies transferred from DRDO to private industry for commercialization. Many of these technologies are dual-use technologies for defence purposes and also for civil applications.

(c) No, Sir. There is no non-utilisation of DRDO technologies. Even in the very few cases when the technology does not mature and transform into a viable product, the efforts of development of such technology in itself gives an added knowledge base to the scientific community and adds to the knowledge bank of the laboratories for use in other developmental projects.

Induction of women officers in combat units

908. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are examining the feasibility of inducting women officers in all walks of Army life, including combat units; and

(b) if so, the details worked out so far and the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Women officers are already being inducted in some Arms and Services in the Army like Army Air Defence, Corps of Signals & Corps of Engineers, Army Service Corps, Army Ordnance Corps, Army Education Corps, Judge Advocate General Department, Corps of Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and Intelligence Corps. In addition women officers also join the Army Medical Corps, Army Dental Corps and Military Nursing Service both in Permanent Commission as well as Short Service Commission. A study on all aspects related to women officers in Armed Forces including induction in combat roles was conducted under the aegis of the Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC). The Study has recommended exclusion of women officers for the present in close combat roles where chances of physical contact with the enemy are high.